

B.A. Bulletin

July 2001

Important Health Benefits News for Benefits Administrators

Upcoming Events

JULY

July 16 ~ New health care premiums reflected in employee paychecks

July 20 ~ Supply of Key Advantage and Cost Alliance posters on July 1 benefit changes sent to Benefits Administrators

AUG

Aug. 1 ~ Work begins on Flexible Benefits enrollment materials for fall 2001

Aug. 31 ~ New Advantage 65 Member Handbook completed

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Prescription Drugs and Traveling Abroad

The procedure has changed for employees who wish to obtain prescription drug refills from Trigon before traveling abroad. While agency Benefits Administrators will continue to write letters for employees indicating travel out of the country, they will no longer be responsible for providing specific prescription information.

Here are the revised steps:

- The Benefits Administrator will give the employee a letter addressed to Trigon stating that the employee and/or any eligible dependent(s) will be out of the country and indicating both the date of departure and the anticipated date of return.
- After the letter is given to the employee, he or she will send a letter to the Trigon Prior Authorization Unit indicating which prescription drugs need to be refilled in advance, and attach the letter from the agency.

The Trigon address is: Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Drug Prior Authorization Unit, MD #44E, P.O. Box 85040, Richmond, VA 23261-5040

Employees also may fax the information to Trigon at (804) 354-2120 in Richmond or 1-800-896-5125 outside Richmond.

Posters on Benefit Changes Ready Soon

Key Advantage and Cost Alliance posters are being printed which show benefit changes effective July 1. We plan to distribute a supply to all Benefits Administrators the third week of July.



More Options for Spouses Who Are State Employees

State employees married to each other now have more membership options.

If they wish to cover themselves and one or more children, they may choose either "Married Double State" membership or each individual may elect *Single*, *Employee Plus One* or *Family* coverage. Each employee may select a different plan. However, both may not cover the same child as a dependent.

If two married state employees wish coverage for themselves only, each may elect *Single* membership or they may enroll together in the *Employee Plus One* category.

Eligibility of Faculty Members

The Health Insurance Manual (HIM) will be revised to state that health benefits are not available for faculty members hired for one semester only. (Previously, the HIM referred to the spring semester only.) However, a faculty member will be eligible for health benefits if documentation shows that the college or university intends to extend the faculty member's contract for an additional semester.

BES Changes on Horizon

We continue work on upgrading the Benefits Eligibility System (BES) based on policy changes for July 1. More details soon!